



News Release

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Life Jacket Trade-In Opportunity **Boaters have another opportunity to trade in old life jackets**

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) announces another opportunity in the Sacramento area to trade in your old, outgrown or unserviceable life jacket for a new, Coast Guard-approved life jacket (while supplies last).

DBW has teamed up with boating safety partners including the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Safe Kids Greater Sacramento Coalition, and the Drowning Accident Rescue Team (D.A.R.T.) to host life jacket trade-in events at all Sacramento area Kohl's department stores on Saturday, June 27 from 12 – 2 p.m. For a complete list of participating locations, please visit WearItCalifornia.com.

Of the 39 California boating fatalities in 2014, 59 percent of victims drowned. Where life jacket use was known, 96 percent were not wearing a life jacket.

"Each year, we see boating accidents end in tragedy that could have been prevented by boaters simply wearing life jackets," said DBW's Acting Deputy Director Christopher C. Conlin. "We want to help boaters have access to a properly fitted life jacket; it could end up saving your life."

Life jacket trade-in events give recreational boaters the opportunity to have a boating safety professional inspect their life jackets to determine proper fit and use. If a life jacket is determined to be unserviceable or outgrown, a new, Coast Guard-approved life jacket will be given in exchange the old one.

When choosing the right life jacket, water enthusiasts should ensure the following:

- **The life jacket is Coast Guard-approved.** All life jackets approved for use by the Coast Guard will have an approval number on the inside label. Only Coast Guard-approved life jackets should be used when boating. Boaters could be cited if they do not have the proper equipment on board their vessel.



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1

- **The life jacket is the proper size.** Life jacket sizes are categorized by weight. Life jackets should fit snug and should never be purchased to “grow into.” A life jacket that is too small may not provide enough flotation to keep you afloat. A life jacket that is too large can slip off upon entry into the water or could ride up around your face and prevent normal breathing.
- **The life jacket is approved for the intended boating activity.** Check the inside label of the life jacket to make sure it is approved for your boating activity.

For more information on life jackets, visit WearItCalifornia.com.

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About California's Drought

For more than two years, California has been dealing with the effects of drought. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit Drought.CA.Gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water. Find out how at SaveOurWater.com

California State Parks Mission

To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation.

Division of Boating and Waterways Mission

DBW is a division within California State Parks. The division provides safe and convenient public access to California's waterways and leadership in promoting safe, enjoyable and environmentally sound recreational boating.

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2